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RECEIVED

US Fish & Wildlife Service
CCFWO, Arcata, CA

October 1, 1998

Mr. Bruce Halstead
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th Street, Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521-5582

RE: Extension of Public Comment Period on PALCO Draft SYP/HCP
Permit Applications #PRT-82950 and 1157

Dear Mr. Halstead,

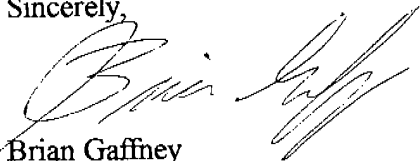
This office represents the Sierra Club and the Environmental Protection Information Center ("EPIC") with respect to Pacific Lumber Company's HCP/SYP ("HCP").

On August 24, 1998, I wrote to object to the HCP close of public comment on October 13, 1998 on the grounds that adequate comment was prevented by the absence of the draft EIS/EIR and other relevant information withheld by the federal agencies. Since then the Sierra Club and EPIC have received numerous verbal assurances from the federal agencies that the HCP comment period will, in fact, close on November 16, 1998. In particular you informed me yesterday that a notice will appear in the Federal Register on Friday, October 2, 1998, stating that the HCP public comment period has been extended until November 16, 1998.

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EPIC and the Sierra Club have relied upon these assurances in preparing their comments and expect that an official notice will appear in the Federal Register tomorrow.

Sincerely,



Brian Gaffney
Attorney for Sierra Club & EPIC

cc: Tom Lippe, Esq.
Tara Mueller, Esq.
Paul Mason, EPIC
Kathy Bailey, Sierra Club

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Mr. Bruce HASTARD

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